



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

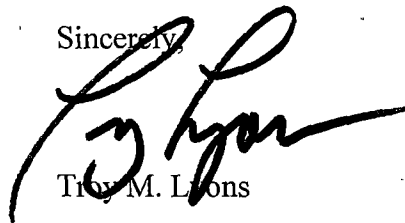
Thank you for your letter dated October 4, 2018, expressing your support of children's health and the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP). The EPA's OCHP is an important office within the EPA, providing essential leadership in protecting children through engagement on key children's health issues (e.g., addressing exposures in schools and indoor air quality programs) and supporting research to ensure that children have a safe and healthy environment to live, learn, and play. Enclosed is the Agency's October 2018 report "Protecting Children's Health" which highlights many of the key efforts the Agency has underway. The report can also be found at <https://www.epa.gov/children/protecting-childrens-health-booklet>.

There are no plans to reorganize the Office of Children's Health Protection, to reduce funding, or to shift resources. The Agency will continue to involve the OCHP in the EPA's proposed rules and regulation actions as it has normally done.

Additionally, no personnel actions have been taken against Dr. Ruth Etzel. She has been placed on paid leave pending the Agency's review into allegations regarding Dr. Etzel's leadership of the OCHP. While the allegations are reviewed, Dr. Michael Firestone, currently the Acting Deputy Director, will step in and serve as the Acting OCHP Director. Dr. Firestone will provide strong leadership. He is a 30-year career EPA employee who joined the Office of Children's Health Protection in 2000 as the science team lead where he focused on research planning, science policy and risk assessment guidance related to children's environmental health.

The EPA is committed to protect children where they live, learn, and play by funding programs and research initiatives that help to keep these environments safe from environmental hazards. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody in EPA's Office of Congressional Affairs at [moody.christina@epa.gov](mailto:moody.christina@epa.gov) or (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Lyons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Troy M. Lyons

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

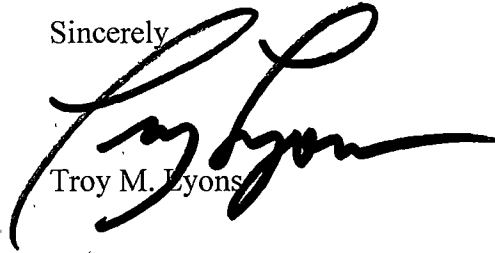
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Troy M. Lyons

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

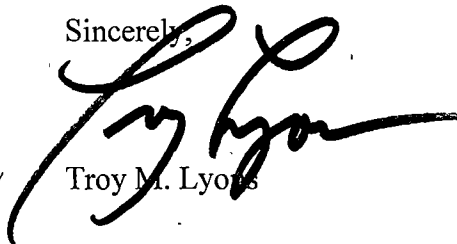
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Troy M. Lyons

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Jeffery A. Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter dated October 4, 2018, expressing your support of children's health and the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP). The EPA's OCHP is an important office within the EPA, providing essential leadership in protecting children through engagement on key children's health issues (e.g., addressing exposures in schools and indoor air quality programs) and supporting research to ensure that children have a safe and healthy environment to live, learn, and play. Enclosed is the Agency's October 2018 report "Protecting Children's Health" which highlights many of the key efforts the Agency has underway. The report can also be found at <https://www.epa.gov/children/protecting-childrens-health-booklet>.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2018

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL  
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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

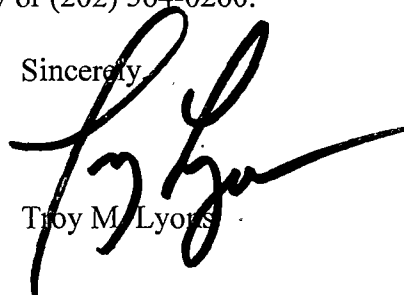
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